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STATINTL

The Reader Writes

CIA Record

To THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR:

I am not one qualified to go about saying, "I told you so," but in this instance, with the past record of our Central Intelligence Agency under the leadership of Alen Dulles, I must ask a question.

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Tow could President Kennedy continue the services of Mr. Dulles, especially since the poor intelligence judgment which permitted the overflight of the U-2 plane last May, and the consequent bungling in seeking to answer for this error in judgment? In fact, if one is willing to go through the news of the past five years, it can be seen where the CIA led us astray in a rather consistent manner. I am not here impunging the loyalty of Mr. Dulles or any inember of his organization, but I do feel that our intelligence, most vital to our very continuance as a free society, is badly managed, and poorly operated.

This can best be borne out by Mr. Kennedy's apparent willingness to listen to the CIA over the objections of Secretary of State Rusk and Chester Bowles with regard to the abortive "Cuban counterrevolution."

If Mr. Kennedy continues to push this Cuban misadventure at this time, he can only hope to lose much support we need at all times from those nations in South America, and Asia, as well as the emerging African nations which are not certain of us as yet because of our past alignment with their colonial rulers, or because of our past—and quite obvious—neglect of them as in South America.

We can recover our prestige only if we view this situation calmly at this time, while thinking of a few 'New Frontier' policies and actions which will strengthen us in the other countries of Central and South America. This is our best insurance against such future flascoes.

Mt. Vernon, N.Y. Austin F. Hickey